UNITED
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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-third session
Item 14 of the provisional agenda

STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966, adopted and opened for signature, ratification or accession the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

2. Both Covenants and the Optional Protocol were opened for signature at New York on 19 December 1966. In accordance with their respective provisions, 1/ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights entered into force on 3 January 1976, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights entered into force on 23 March 1976, and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, having received the required number of ratifications or accessions, entered into force simultaneously with that Covenant on 23 March 1976.

3. The General Assembly, by its resolution 44/128 of 15 December 1989, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and called upon all Governments in a position to do so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Second Optional Protocol.

4. The Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights entered into force on 11 July 1991, three months after the date of deposit with the Secretary-General of the tenth instrument of ratification or accession. 2/

5. By its resolution 1996/16 of 11 April 1996, the Commission on Human Rights, inter alia, appealed strongly to all States that had not yet become parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to do so, as well as to accede to the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to make the declaration provided for in its article 41; invited the Secretary-General to intensify systematic efforts to encourage States to become parties to the Covenants and, through the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, to provide such services as might be sought by States that were not parties to the Covenants, with a view to assisting them to ratify them or accede to them; encouraged States in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action to consider limiting the extent of any reservations they lodge to the International Covenants on Human Rights, to formulate such reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible and to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the relevant treaty or otherwise contrary to international law. The Commission also stressed to States parties the importance of avoiding the erosion of human rights by derogation, and underlined the necessity for strict observance of the agreed conditions and procedure for derogation under article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the need for States parties to provide full and timely information also during states of emergency, so that the justification and appropriateness of measures taken in those circumstances could be assessed. The Commission further urged States parties to fulfil in good time their reporting obligations under the International Covenants on Human Rights and in their reports to make use of gender-disaggregated data; it also urged them to take duly into account, in implementing the provisions of the Covenants, the observations made at the conclusion of the consideration of their reports by the Human Rights Committee and by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to provide the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights with additional means to deal effectively and in a timely manner with the increasing workload. It further requested the Secretary-General to submit at its fifty-third session a report on the status of the International Covenants and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including all reservations and declarations. 3/

6. As at 1 November 1996, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had been ratified or acceded to by 135 States; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by 136 States; the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by 89 States; and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by 29 States.

7. Upon ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights or subsequently 45 States made the declaration provided for in article 41 of the Covenant, recognizing the competence of the Human Rights Committee established under article 28 of the Covenant to receive and consider communications to the effect that a State party claims that another State party is not fulfilling its obligations under the Covenant. The provisions of article 41 entered into force on 28 March 1979 in accordance with paragraph 2 of that article.

8. The lists of the States parties to the Covenants and the Optional Protocols, the dates of their ratifications, accessions or successions as well as the dates of entry into force of those instruments for each State appear in annexes I and II to the present document.

Notes

1/ Article 27 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, article 49 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and article 9 of the Optional Protocol.

2/ Article 8 of the Second Optional Protocol.

3/ For the text of reservations, declarations, notifications and objections relating to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols thereto, see document ST/LEG/SER.E/14, Multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary General: status as at 31 December 1995.

Annex I

STATES PARTIES TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS AS AT 1 NOVEMBER 1996 (135)

State party	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification accession a/ or succession b/	Date of entry into force
Afghanistan	24 January 1983 a/	24 April 1983
Albania	4 October 1991 a/	4 January 1992
Algeria	12 September 1989	12 December 1989
Angola	10 January 1992 a/	10 April 1992
Argentina	8 August 1986	8 November 1986
Armenia	13 September 1993	13 December 1993
Australia	10 December 1975	10 March 1976
Austria	10 September 1978	10 December 1978
Azerbaijan	13 August 1992 a/	13 November 1992
Barbados	5 January 1973 a/	3 January 1976
Belarus	12 November 1973	3 January 1976
Belgium	21 April 1983	21 July 1983
Benin	12 March 1992 a/	12 June 1992
Bolivia	12 August 1982 a/	12 November 1982
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 September 1993 b/	6 March 1992
Brazil	24 January 1992 a/	24 April 1992
Bulgaria	21 September 1970	3 January 1976
Burundi	9 May 1990 a/	9 August 1990
Cambodia	26 May 1992 a/	26 August 1992
Cameroon	27 June 1984 a/	27 September 1984
Canada	19 May 1976 a/	19 August 1976
Cape Verde	6 August 1993 a/	6 November 1993
Central African Republic	8 May 1981 a/	8 August 1981
Chad	9 June 1995 a/	9 September 1995
Chile	10 February 1972	3 January 1976

China*		
Colombia	29 October 1969	3 January 1976
Congo	5 October 1983 a/	5 January 1984
Costa Rica	29 November 1968	3 January 1976
Côte d'Ivoire	26 March 1992 a/	26 June 1992
Croatia	8 October 1991 b/	8 October 1991
Cyprus	2 April 1969	3 January 1976
Czech Republic	22 February 1993 b/	1 January 1993
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	14 September 1981 a/	14 December 1981
Denmark	6 January 1972	3 January 1976
Dominica	17 June 1993 a/	17 September 1993
Dominican Republic	4 January 1978 a/	4 April 1978
Ecuador	6 March 1969	3 January 1976
Egypt	14 January 1982	14 April 1982
El Salvador	30 November 1979	29 February 1980
Equatorial Guinea	25 September 1987 a/	25 December 1987
Estonia	21 October 1991 a/	21 January 1992
Ethiopia	11 June 1993 a/	11 September 1993
Finland	19 August 1975	3 January 1976
France	4 November 1980 a/	4 February 1981

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* Following the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 2758 (XXVI) of 25 October 1971 on the restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, by a note addressed to the Secretary-General, received on 29 September 1972, stated:

> "1. With regard to the multilateral treaties signed, ratified or acceded to by the defunct Chinese Government before the establishment of the People's Republic of China, my Government will examine all their contents before making a decision in the light of the circumstances as to whether or not they should be recognized.
>
> "2. As from 1 October 1949, the day of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Chiang Kai-Shek clique has no right at all to represent China. Its signature and ratification of, or accession to, any multilateral treaties by usurping the name of 'China' are all illegal and null and void. My Government will study these multilateral treaties before making a decision in the light of the circumstances as to whether or not they should be acceded to."

The lists in annexes I and II therefore do not include the signature of the two International Covenants and the Optional Protocol on behalf of the "Republic of China" on 5 October 1967.

Gabon	21 January 1983 a/	21 April 1983
Gambia	29 December 1978 a/	29 March 1979
Georgia	3 May 1994 a/	3 August 1994
Germany	17 December 1973	3 January 1976
Greece	16 May 1985 a/	16 August 1985
Grenada	6 September 1991 a/	6 December 1991
Guatemala	19 May 1988 a/	19 August 1988
Guinea	24 January 1978	24 April 1978
Guinea-Bissau	2 July 1992 a/	2 October 1992
Guyana	15 February 1977	15 May 1977
Honduras	17 February 1981 a/	17 May 1981
Hungary	17 January 1974	3 January 1976
Iceland	22 August 1979	22 November 1979
India	10 April 1979 a/	10 July 1979
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	24 June 1975	3 January 1976
Iraq	25 January 1971	3 January 1976
Ireland	8 December 1989	8 March 1990
Israel	3 October 1991	3 January 1992
Italy	15 September 1978	15 December 1978
Jamaica	3 October 1975	3 January 1976
Japan	21 June 1979	21 September 1979
Jordan	28 May 1975	3 January 1976
Kenya	1 May 1972 a/	3 January 1976
Kuwait	21 May 1996 a/	21 August 1996
Kyrgyzstan	7 October 1994	7 January 1995
Latvia	14 April 1992 a/	14 July 1992
Lebanon	3 November 1972 a/	3 January 1976
Lesotho	9 September 1992 a/	9 December 1992
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	15 May 1970 a/	3 January 1976
Lithuania	20 November 1991 a/	20 February 1992
Luxembourg	18 August 1983	18 November 1983
Madagascar	22 September 1971 a/	3 January 1976
Malawi	22 December 1993 a/	22 March 1994
Mali	16 July 1974 a/	3 January 1976
Malta	13 September 1990	13 December 1990
Mauritius	12 December 1973 a/	3 January 1976
Mexico	23 March 1981 a/	23 June 1981
Mongolia	18 November 1974	3 January 1976
Morocco	3 May 1979	3 August 1979
Namibia	22 December 1993 a/	22 March 1994
Nepal	14 May 1991 a/	14 August 1991

Netherlands	11 December 1978	11 March 1979
New Zealand	28 December 1978	28 March 1979
Nicaragua	12 March 1980 a/	12 June 1980
Niger	7 March 1986 a/	7 June 1986
Nigeria	29 July 1993 a/	29 October 1993
Norway	13 September 1972	3 January 1976
Panama	8 March 1977	8 June 1977
Paraguay	10 June 1992 a/	10 September 1992
Peru	28 April 1978	28 July 1978
Philippines	7 June 1974	3 January 1976
Poland	18 March 1977	18 June 1977
Portugal	31 July 1978	31 October 1978
Republic of Korea	10 April 1990 a/	10 July 1990
Republic of Moldova	26 January 1993 a/	26 April 1993
Romania	9 December 1974	3 January 1976
Russian Federation	16 October 1973	3 January 1976
Rwanda	16 April 1975 a/	3 January 1976
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	9 November 1981 a/	9 February 1982
San Marino	18 October 1985 a/	18 January 1986
Senegal	13 February 1978	13 May 1978
Seychelles	5 May 1992 a/	5 August 1992
Sierra Leone	23 August 1996 a/	23 November 1996
Slovakia	28 May 1993 b/	1 January 1993
Slovenia	6 July 1992 a/	6 July 1992
Solomon Islands	17 March 1982 b/	17 March 1982
Somalia	24 January 1990 a/	24 April 1990
Spain	27 April 1977	27 July 1977
Sri Lanka	11 June 1980 a/	11 September 1980
Sudan	18 March 1986 a/	18 June 1986
Suriname	28 December 1976 a/	28 March 1977
Sweden	6 December 1971	3 January 1976
Switzerland	18 June 1992 a/	18 September 1992
Syrian Arab Republic	21 April 1969 a/	3 January 1976
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	18 January 1994 b/	17 September 1991
Togo	24 May 1984 a/	24 August 1984
Trinidad and Tobago	8 December 1978 a/	8 March 1979

Tunisia	18 March 1969	3 January 1976
Uganda	21 January 1987 a/	21 April 1987
Ukraine	12 November 1973	3 January 1976
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	20 May 1976	20 August 1976
United Republic of Tanzania	11 June 1976 a/	11 September 1976
Uruguay	1 April 1970	3 January 1976
Uzbekistan	28 September 1995	28 December 1995
Venezuela	10 May 1978	10 August 1978
Viet Nam	24 September 1982 a/	24 December 1982
Yemen	9 February 1987 a/	9 May 1987
Yugoslavia	2 June 1971	3 January 1976
Zaire	1 November 1976 a/	1 February 1977
Zambia	10 April 1984 a/	10 July 1984
Zimbabwe	13 May 1991 a/	13 August 1991

Annex II

STATES PARTIES TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AND TO THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS AND STATES WHICH HAVE MADE THE DECLARATION UNDER ARTICLE 41 OF THE COVENANT AS AT 1 NOVEMBER 1996

A. States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (136)

State party	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification accession a/ or succession b/	Date of entry into force
Afghanistan	24 January 1983 a/	24 April 1983
Albania	4 October 1991 a/	4 January 1992
Algeria	12 September 1989	12 December 1989
Angola	10 January 1992 a/	10 April 1992
Argentina	8 August 1986	8 November 1986
Armenia	23 June 1993	23 September 1993
Australia	13 August 1980	13 November 1980
Austria	10 September 1978	10 December 1978
Azerbaijan	13 August 1992 a/	13 November 1992
Barbados	5 January 1973 a/	23 March 1976
Belarus	12 November 1973	23 March 1976
Belgium	21 April 1983	21 July 1983
Belize	10 June 1996 a/	10 September 1996
Benin	12 March 1992 a/	12 June 1992
Bolivia	12 August 1982 a/	12 November 1982
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 September 1993 b/	6 March 1992
Brazil	24 January 1992 a/	24 April 1992
Bulgaria	21 September 1970	23 March 1976
Burundi	9 May 1990 a/	9 August 1990
Cambodia	26 May 1992 a/	26 August 1992
Cameroon	27 June 1984 a/	27 September 1984
Canada	19 May 1976 a/	19 August 1976
Cape Verde	6 August 1993 a/	6 November 1993
Central African Republic	8 May 1981 a/	8 August 1981
Chad	9 June 1995 a/	9 September 1995

Chile	10 February 1972	23 March 1976
Colombia	29 October 1969	23 March 1976
Congo	5 October 1983 a/	5 January 1984
Costa Rica	29 November 1968	23 March 1976
Côte d'Ivoire	26 March 1992 a/	26 June 1992
Croatia	8 October 1991 b/	8 October 1991
Cyprus	2 April 1969	23 March 1976
Czech Republic	22 February 1993 b/	1 January 1993
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	14 September 1981 a/	14 December 1981
Denmark	6 January 1972	23 March 1976
Dominica	17 June 1993 a/	17 September 1993
Dominican Republic	4 January 1978 a/	4 April 1978
Ecuador	6 March 1969	23 March 1976
Egypt	14 January 1982	14 April 1982
El Salvador	30 November 1979	29 February 1980
Equatorial Guinea	25 September 1987 a/	25 December 1987
Estonia	21 October 1991 a/	21 January 1992
Ethiopia	11 June 1993 a/	11 September 1993
Finland	19 August 1975	23 March 1976
France	4 November 1980 a/	4 February 1981
Gabon	21 January 1983 a/	21 April 1983
Gambia	22 March 1979 a/	22 June 1979
Georgia	3 May 1994 a/	3 August 1994
Germany	17 December 1973	23 March 1976
Grenada	6 September 1991 a/	6 December 1991
Guatemala	6 May 1992 a/	5 August 1992
Guinea	24 January 1978	24 April 1978
Guyana	15 February 1977	15 May 1977
Haiti	6 February 1991 a/	6 May 1991
Hungary	17 January 1974	23 March 1976
Iceland	22 August 1979	22 November 1979
India	10 April 1979 a/	10 July 1979
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	24 June 1975	23 March 1976
Iraq	25 January 1971	23 March 1976
Ireland	8 December 1989	8 March 1990
Israel	3 October 1991 a/	3 January 1992
Italy	15 September 1978	15 December 1978
Jamaica	3 October 1975	23 March 1976
Japan	21 June 1979	21 September 1979
Jordan	28 May 1975	23 March 1976

Kenya	1 May 1972 a/	23 March 1976
Kuwait	21 May 1996 a/	21 August 1996
Kyrgyzstan	7 October 1994 a/	7 January 1995
Latvia	14 April 1992 a/	14 July 1992
Lebanon	3 November 1972 a/	23 March 1976
Lesotho	9 September 1992 a/	9 December 1992
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	15 May 1970 a/	23 March 1976
Lithuania	20 November 1991 a/	20 February 1992
Luxembourg	18 August 1983	18 November 1983
Madagascar	21 June 1971	23 March 1976
Malawi	22 December 1993 a/	22 March 1994
Mali	16 July 1974 a/	23 March 1976
Malta	13 September 1990 a/	13 December 1990
Mauritius	12 December 1973 a/	23 March 1976
Mexico	23 March 1981 a/	23 June 1981
Mongolia	18 November 1974	23 March 1976
Morocco	3 May 1979	3 August 1979
Mozambique	21 July 1993 a/	21 October 1993
Namibia	28 November 1994 a/	28 February 1995
Nepal	14 May 1991	14 August 1991
Netherlands	11 December 1978	11 March 1979
New Zealand	28 December 1978	28 March 1979
Nicaragua	12 March 1980 a/	12 June 1980
Niger	7 March 1986 a/	7 June 1986
Nigeria	29 July 1993 a/	29 October 1993
Norway	13 September 1972	23 March 1976
Panama	8 March 1977	8 June 1977
Paraguay	10 June 1992 a/	10 September 1992
Peru	28 April 1978	28 July 1978
Philippines	23 October 1986	23 January 1987
Poland	18 March 1977	18 June 1977
Portugal	15 June 1978	15 September 1978
Republic of Korea	10 April 1990 a/	10 July 1990
Republic of Moldova	26 January 1993 a/	26 April 1993
Romania	9 December 1974	23 March 1976
Russian Federation	16 October 1973	23 March 1976
Rwanda	16 April 1975 a/	23 March 1976
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	9 November 1981 a/	9 February 1982
San Marino	18 October 1985 a/	18 January 1986
Senegal	13 February 1978	13 May 1978

Seychelles	5 May 1992 a/	5 August 1992
Sierra Leone	21 August 1996 a/	23 November 1996
Slovakia	28 May 1993 b/	1 January 1993
Slovenia	6 July 1992 b/	6 July 1992
Somalia	24 January 1990 a/	24 April 1990
Spain	27 April 1977	27 July 1977
Sri Lanka	11 June 1980 a/	11 September 1980
Sudan	18 March 1986 a/	18 June 1986
Suriname	28 December 1976 a/	28 March 1977
Sweden	6 December 1971	23 March 1976
Switzerland	18 June 1992 a/	18 September 1992
Syrian Arab Republic	21 April 1969 a/	23 March 1976
Thailand	29 October 1996 a/	2 January 1997
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	18 January 1994 b/	17 September 1991
Togo	24 May 1984 a/	24 August 1984
Trinidad and Tobago	21 December 1978 a/	21 March 1979
Tunisia	18 March 1969	23 March 1976
Uganda	21 June 1995 a/	21 September 1995
Ukraine	12 November 1973	23 March 1976
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	20 May 1976	20 August 1976
United Republic of Tanzania	11 June 1976 a/	11 September 1976
United States of America	8 June 1992	8 September 1992
Uruguay	1 April 1970	23 March 1976
Uzbekistan	28 September 1995 a/	28 December 1995
Venezuela	10 May 1978	10 August 1978
Viet Nam	24 September 1982 a/	24 December 1982
Yemen	9 February 1987 a/	9 May 1987
Yugoslavia	2 June 1971	23 March 1976
Zaire	1 November 1976 a/	1 February 1977
Zambia	10 April 1984 a/	10 July 1984
Zimbabwe	13 May 1991 a/	13 August 1991

B. States which have made the declaration under article 41 of the Covenant (45)

State party	Valid from	Valid until
Algeria	12 September 1989	Indefinitely
Argentina	8 August 1986	Indefinitely
Australia	28 January 1993	Indefinitely
Austria	10 September 1978	Indefinitely
Belarus	30 September 1992	Indefinitely
Belgium	5 March 1987	Indefinitely
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6 March 1992	Indefinitely
Bulgaria	12 May 1993	Indefinitely
Canada	29 October 1979	Indefinitely
Chile	11 March 1990	Indefinitely
Congo	7 July 1989	Indefinitely
Croatia	12 October 1995	Indefinitely
Czech Republic	1 January 1993	Indefinitely
Denmark	23 March 1976	Indefinitely
Ecuador	24 August 1984	Indefinitely
Finland	19 August 1975	Indefinitely
Gambia	9 June 1988	Indefinitely
Germany	28 March 1979	27 March 1996
Guyana	10 May 1993	Indefinitely
Hungary	7 September 1988	Indefinitely
Iceland	22 August 1979	Indefinitely
Ireland	8 December 1989	Indefinitely
Italy	15 September 1978	Indefinitely
Luxembourg	18 August 1983	Indefinitely
Malta	13 September 1990	Indefinitely
Netherlands	11 December 1978	Indefinitely
New Zealand	28 December 1978	Indefinitely
Norway	23 March 1976	Indefinitely
Peru	9 April 1984	Indefinitely
Philippines	23 October 1986	Indefinitely
Poland	25 September 1990	Indefinitely
Republic of Korea	10 April 1990	Indefinitely
Russian Federation	1 October 1991	Indefinitely
Senegal	5 January 1981	Indefinitely
Slovakia	1 January 1993	Indefinitely

Slovenia	25 June 1991	Indefinitely
Spain	25 January 1985	25 January 1993
Sri Lanka	11 June 1980	Indefinitely
Sweden	23 March 1976	Indefinitely
Switzerland	18 September 1992	18 September 1997
Tunisia	24 June 1993	Indefinitely
Ukraine	28 July 1992	Indefinitely
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	20 May 1976	Indefinitely
United States of America	8 September 1992	Indefinitely
Zimbabwe	20 August 1991	Indefinitely

C. States parties to the Optional Protocol (89)

State party	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession a/ or succession b/	Date of entry into force
Algeria	12 September 1989 a/	12 December 1990
Angola	10 January 1992 a/	10 April 1992
Argentina	8 August 1986 a/	8 November 1986
Armenia	23 June 1993	23 September 1993
Australia	25 September 1991 a/	25 December 1991
Austria	10 December 1987	10 March 1988
Barbados	5 January 1973 a/	23 March 1976
Belarus	30 September 1992 a/	30 December 1992
Belgium	17 May 1994	17 August 1994
Benin	12 March 1992 a/	12 June 1992
Bolivia	12 August 1982 a/	12 November 1982
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 March 1995	1 June 1995
Bulgaria	26 March 1992 a/	26 June 1992
Cameroon	27 June 1984 a/	27 September 1984
Canada	19 May 1976 a/	19 August 1976
Central African Republic	8 May 1981 a/	8 August 1981
Chad	9 June 1995 a/	9 September 1995
Chile	28 May 1992 a/	28 August 1992
Colombia	29 October 1969	23 March 1976
Congo	5 October 1983 a/	5 January 1984

Costa Rica	29 November 1968	23 March 1976
Croatia	12 October 1995	12 January 1996
Cyprus	15 April 1992	15 July 1992
Czech Republic	22 February 1993 b/	1 January 1993
Denmark	6 January 1972	23 March 1976
Dominican Republic	4 January 1978 a/	4 April 1978
Ecuador	6 March 1969	23 March 1976
El Salvador	6 June 1995	6 September 1995
Equatorial Guinea	25 September 1987 a/	25 December 1987
Estonia	21 October 1991 a/	21 January 1992
Finland	19 August 1975	23 March 1976
France	17 February 1984 a/	17 May 1984
Gambia	9 June 1988 a/	9 September 1988
Georgia	3 May 1994 a/	3 August 1994
Germany	25 August 1993	25 November 1993
Guinea	17 June 1993	17 September 1993
Guyana	10 May 1993 a/	10 August 1993
Hungary	7 September 1988 a/	7 December 1988
Iceland	22 August 1979 a/	22 November 1979
Ireland	8 December 1989	8 March 1990
Italy	15 September 1978	15 December 1978
Jamaica	3 October 1975	23 March 1976
Kyrgyzstan	7 October 1994 a/	7 January 1995
Latvia	22 June 1994	22 September 1994
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	16 May 1989 a/	16 August 1989
Lithuania	20 November 1991 a/	20 February 1992
Luxembourg	18 August 1983 a/	18 November 1983
Madagascar	21 June 1971	23 March 1976
Malawi	11 June 1996	
Malta	13 September 1990 a/	13 December 1990
Mauritius	12 December 1973 a/	23 March 1976
Mongolia	16 April 1991 a/	16 July 1991
Namibia	28 November 1994 a/	28 February 1995
Nepal	14 May 1991 a/	14 August 1991
Netherlands	11 December 1978	11 March 1979
New Zealand	26 May 1989 a/	26 August 1989
Nicaragua	12 March 1980 a/	12 June 1980
Niger	7 March 1986 a/	7 June 1986
Norway	13 September 1972	23 March 1976
Panama	8 March 1977	8 June 1977

Paraguay	10 January 1995	10 April 1995
Peru	3 October 1980	3 January 1981
Philippines	22 August 1989 a/	22 November 1989
Poland	7 November 1991 a/	7 February 1992
Portugal	3 May 1983	3 August 1983
Republic of Korea	10 April 1990 a/	10 July 1990
Romania	20 July 1993 a/	20 October 1993
Russian Federation	1 October 1991 a/	1 January 1992
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	9 November 1981 a/	9 February 1982
San Marino	18 October 1985 a/	18 January 1986
Senegal	13 February 1978	13 May 1978
Seychelles	5 May 1992 a/	5 August 1992
Sierra Leone	23 August 1996 a/	23 November 1996
Slovakia	28 May 1993 b/	1 January 1993
Slovenia	16 July 1993 a/	16 October 1993
Somalia	24 January 1990 a/	24 April 1990
Spain	25 January 1985 a/	25 April 1985
Suriname	28 December 1976 a/	28 March 1977
Sweden	6 December 1971	23 March 1976
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	12 December 1994 a/	12 March 1995
Togo	30 March 1988 a/	30 June 1988
Trinidad and Tobago	14 November 1980 a/	14 February 1981
Uganda	14 November 1995	14 February 1996
Ukraine	25 July 1991 a/	25 October 1991
Uruguay	1 April 1970	23 March 1976
Uzbekistan	28 September 1995 a/	28 December 1995
Venezuela	10 May 1978	10 August 1978
Zaire	1 November 1976 a/	1 February 1977
Zambia	10 April 1984 a/	10 July 1984

D. States parties to the Second Optional Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (29)

State party	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession a/	Date of entry into force
Australia	2 October 1990 a/	11 July 1991
Austria	2 March 1993	2 June 1993
Croatia	12 October 1995	12 January 1996
Denmark	24 February 1994	24 May 1994
Ecuador	23 February 1993 a/	23 May 1993

Finland	4 April 1991	11 July 1991
Germany	18 August 1992	18 November 1992
Hungary	24 February 1994	24 May 1994
Iceland	2 April 1991	11 July 1991
Ireland	18 June 1993 a/	18 September 1993
Italy	14 February 1995	14 May 1995
Luxembourg	12 February 1992	12 May 1992
Malta	29 December 1994	29 March 1995
Mozambique	21 July 1993 a/	21 October 1993
Namibia	28 November 1994 a/	28 February 1995
Netherlands	27 February 1991	11 July 1991
New Zealand	22 February 1990	11 July 1991
Norway	5 September 1991	5 December 1991
Panama	21 January 1993 a/	21 April 1993
Portugal	17 October 1990	11 July 1991
Romania	27 February 1991	11 July 1991
Seychelles	15 December 1994 a/	15 March 1995
Slovenia	10 March 1994	10 June 1994
Spain	11 April 1991	11 July 1991
Sweden	11 May 1990	11 July 1991
Switzerland	16 June 1994 a/	16 September 1994
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	26 January 1995 a/	26 April 1995
Uruguay	21 January 1993	21 April 1993
Venezuela	22 February 1993	22 May 1993

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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-third session
Item 15 of the provisional agenda

EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF BODIES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

Report of the Secretary-General

Introduction

1. In paragraph 22 of its resolution 1996/22, entitled "Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights", the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-third session on measures taken to implement the resolution and on obstacles to its implementation. The present report has been prepared in accordance with that request.

I. ISSUES DEALT WITH BY RESOLUTION 1996/22 REQUIRING ACTION BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OR THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

A. Financing and adequate staff and information resources for the operation of the human rights treaty bodies (para. 2 of resolution 1996/22)

2. The Commission on Human Rights emphasized the need to ensure financing and adequate staff and information resources for the operations of the human rights treaty bodies, and with that in mind: (a) reiterated its request that

the Secretary-General provide adequate resources in respect of each treaty body; and (b) called upon the Secretary-General to make the most efficient use of existing resources and to seek the resources necessary to give the treaty bodies adequate administrative support, access to technical expertise and access to appropriate databases and on-line information services.

3. In this connection, the attention of the Commission on Human Rights is drawn to the relevant information contained in Section I.A of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on this matter (A/51/425).

4. In addition, it may be noted that the new management structure based on three management units, which was referred to in the Secretary-General's report, was put in place as from 30 September 1996. All Secretariat activities supporting the treaty bodies and the Commission on Human Rights as well as the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and related working groups were grouped in Management Unit II (Support Services Branch). One of the purposes of the restructuring is to increase cooperation between the different parts of the human rights programme and to arrive at a more rational use of personnel resources which have been considerably reduced for each and every sector of the Secretariat under the budget of the United Nations for the biennium 1996-1997.

5. It may be noted also that the full-text information retrieval and database system initially developed for the Convention on the Rights of the Child has recently been expanded and made operational with respect to other human rights treaties even though not all the data entry and downloading of full-text documents have been completed. In addition, office space with appropriate electronic equipment has been made available within the Centre for Human Rights to treaty body experts as from November 1996.

B. Notifications of the acceptance of the amendments approved by the States parties and the General Assembly in respect of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (para. 4 of resolution 1996/22)

6. It may be recalled that, in accordance with the amendments adopted by the States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/11 of 16 December 1992, the activities of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee against Torture have been financed under the regular budget of the United Nations since January 1994.

7. As at 1 December 1996, 20 States parties of the 86 required for the entry into force of the amendment to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and 20 States parties of the 45 required for the entry into force of the amendment to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment had notified the Secretary-General that they had accepted the amendments.

C. Final version of the interim report (A/CONF.157/PC/62/Add.11/Rev.1) on possible long-term approaches to enhancing the effective operation of the treaty system (para. 8 of resolution 1996/22)

8. The Commission on Human Rights requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to encourage Mr. Philip Alston, the expert appointed to undertake the study, to finalize his interim report in time for the final report to be considered by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-third session. In November 1996, Mr. Alston indicated that the final report would be submitted in accordance with the Commission's request.

D. Revised version of the Manual on Human Rights Reporting (para.9 of resolution 1996/22)

9. The Commission on Human Rights requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure, from within existing resources, that the revised United Nations Manual on Human Rights Reporting is available in all official languages at the earliest opportunity and that due regard is paid to the recommendations concerning the Manual made by the 5th meeting of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies.

10. Action has been taken to revise the Manual on Human Rights Reporting and to include in the revised version a chapter on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as requested by the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies. Treaty body experts have been consulted with respect to the revision of the Manual.

11. The revision and updating of the Manual have been undertaken by the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights in collaboration with the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization in Turin, Italy. The Manual has been developed into a training package composed of four distinctive elements: the Manual, a trainer's guide and its annexes, including training tools, and a pocket guide for participants in training courses. The revised Manual is scheduled to be published in 1997.

E. Provision of advisory services and technical assistance to help States parties to comply with their obligations under human rights instruments at the request of the States concerned (para. 15 (b) of resolution 1996/22)

12. The Commission on Human Rights requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide advisory services and technical assistance at the request of the States concerned, and whenever possible in cooperation with other relevant agencies.

13. It may be noted in this connection that the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies at their 7th meeting, held from 16 to 20 September 1996, recommended that treaty bodies be as specific as possible in elaborating concluding observations on State party reports involving recommendations for technical assistance to be made available by the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights to the State concerned.

14. Recent activities of the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights in the field of technical assistance to States as a follow-up of human rights treaty bodies' recommendations included: (a) a needs assessment mission to Viet Nam in March 1996 to implement the recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child with regard, in particular, to training of law enforcement personnel; (b) a needs assessment mission to the Philippines in July 1996, which was also based on the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and which focused on a project on the administration of juvenile justice. Other projects of technical assistance such as those elaborated for Guatemala, Madagascar, Mauritius and Morocco, at the request of their respective Governments, deal with a wide range of human rights and are developed taking into account specific recommendations made by human rights treaty bodies. It may be noted, in this regard, that the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights is elaborating guidelines which should facilitate the integration of economic, social and cultural rights into its proposed projects of technical assistance.

15. Furthermore, a regional course specifically aimed at training government officials from Latin American States in the reporting obligations and the treaty system was held in Mar del Plato, Argentina, from 4 to 8 November 1996. Participants from 16 States attended the course. A similar training course was organized at the ILO International Training Centre, from 4 to 22 November 1996. The training course was addressed to government officials from States whose reports under the various international human rights instruments were considerably overdue. Participants from 19 States attended the course. This course was the third of its kind organized at the Training Centre.

F. Dissemination of basic documentation of human rights treaty bodies (para. 16 of resolution 1996/22)

16. The Commission on Human Rights requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to endeavour to ensure that recent reports and the summary records of committee discussions pertaining to them, as well as concluding observations and final comments of the treaty bodies, continue to be made available in the United Nations information centres in the countries submitting those reports. A procedure has been put in place in cooperation with the Department of Public Information to ensure that documents relating to the consideration by human rights treaty bodies of State party reports are made available in the United Nations information centres in the countries concerned. In addition, those documents are being made available on the website of the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights on the Internet (WWW.UNHCHR.CH).

G. Consultations of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with human rights treaty bodies (para. 18 of resolution 1996/22)

17. The Commission on Human Rights invited the High Commissioner to consult the human rights treaty bodies with regard to his efforts to promote cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations for the promotion and protection of human rights.

18. The High Commissioner regularly informs the human rights treaty bodies about national, regional and subregional workshops, training courses and seminars organized by the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights for interested government officials on the implementation of international human rights instruments. Treaty body experts are usually invited to participate in those events as resource persons. Additionally, the High Commissioner invites regional intergovernmental organizations to be represented at the meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies.

19. At present, the secretariat of the European Commission on Human Rights provides the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights regularly with information on its case law. In addition, the databases of the European Commission on Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights and the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe are accessible to the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights on a trial basis.

H. Coordination and consultation by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on measures that may be taken by human rights treaty bodies in response to situations of massive human rights violations (para. 21 of resolution 1996/22)

20. The Commission on Human Rights requested the High Commissioner to coordinate and consult throughout the United Nations system in regard to measures that may be taken by human rights treaty bodies in response to situations of massive human rights violations.

21. It may be recalled that the question of measures that treaty bodies may take in response to situations of massive human rights violations and the coordination of action with other United Nations organs and bodies in that regard was at the heart of a meeting between the Secretary-General and the persons chairing human rights treaty bodies which was held at United Nations Headquarters on 19 June 1995 with the participation of the High Commissioner.

22. At their 6th meeting, in September 1995, the chairpersons recommended that treaty bodies increasingly consult United Nations organs and bodies, including special rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, exchange information and utilize existing expertise in order to detect and respond appropriately to situations of massive violations of human rights.

23. Those recommendations were brought to the attention of the third meeting of special rapporteurs, representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Advisory Services Programme in May 1996. In this connection, Ms. Akila Belembaogo, the Chairperson of the 6th meeting of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies, addressed the participants. In turn, Mr. Bacre W. N'diaye, chairperson of the 3rd meeting of special rapporteurs, representatives, experts, and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and the Advisory Services Programme addressed the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies at their 7th meeting in September 1996. It was generally agreed that cooperation between the special procedures system and the treaty bodies should be strengthened in cases that call for the sending of urgent action appeals.